

Truth tryumphing

Over Falshood.

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OR,

The Life and Conversation of *James Frese* Gentleman, Declared,
Stated, and Vindicated.

Occasioned through the false and foul Aspersions cast upon him
by new Discovered Adversaries.

Together with the manner of their proceedings against him,
concerning the Mastership of the Hospital of Katharins
L O N D O N.

*Acts 24. 13. Neither can they prove the things whereof they
now accuse me.*

*And herein I endeavour to have alway a clear Conscience tow-
ards God, and toward men*

*To every Individual Member of the Parliament of the
Commonwealth of England: And to his Excellency,
and the Honourable Council of State.*

Right Honourable, and truly honoured in the Lord Jesus;
Being at present bespattered by black mouthed envie, and
the secret traducing practises of Paracelsian slanders;
wherein hell hath opened her mouth wide, and its wicked
Instruments, like fiery flying serpents, by their deadly stings have
wounded me in my good name and profession, in the course of my
Christian life; I have therefore thought it my duty, to vindicate
the honour of God, the profession of the Truth, and mine own in-
nocency (though not to mire enemies, yet to the satisfaction and
undeceiving of my friends) from those several vile aspersions cast
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upon me, by those traducing sons of Belial : Most humbly beseeching you to take notice, that I am necessitated to it, to the end I may (if possibly) stand so right in all your thoughts, as I do stand clear in my own Conscience : And upon this account, blame me not for vindicating my self, seeing it is my right by common reason and equity, to wipe off that dirt thrown upon me, by those foul, false, and secret Aspersers ; who through their backbyting serpentine subtilty, would fain make me twofold more a child of hell then themselves. As relating to those their false aspersions cast upon me without desert, it is sufficient for me, that the Lord hath satisfied me with the sweetness of that peace within, which passeth all their understandings. It is a sad thing to consider, that such as profess Christ and his prescribed rules of Truth, Peace, and love; (which in the practical part of it makes them eminent Christians) should so unjustly bespatter any, especially such as live in the same light (supported by the power of sacred love) and endeavour to destroy them in their good name, credit, yea life, as some evil minded men of late have strangely and secretly sought and still persist to do, even to my destruction, if possible. O the abominable covetousness, malice, cruelty, rage, and fury of men ! Some of them who seem to know and profess Christ by the tongue, I fear (in the practical part) do wholly deny him, by employing such wicked instruments to confound a Christian man, by whom they know no evil.

What indirect practises have been by them used to defeat me of my right, is best known to God and their own Consciences and yet not altogether unknown to me, referring the discovery of them to a more convenient time, if necessitated so to do ; but of this I am assured, that if the Masters place of Katharines had not been conferred on me, D. Cox, nor his evil Instruments had never traduced or slandered me, as they have done.

This designe being contrived by Goalers and their adherents, and driven on by D. Cox, and his instruments, is prosecuted merely to pluck up my good name and reputation by the roots, to the making good of Justice Whitakers false report, and the Dormant Bugbear Order of the House upon it ; never daring to act upon that Order, against me, and others in 1645. nor ever since ; and their serpentine drawing in the innocent hearts of divers honourable

ble Commanders of the Army, to give credit thereto; and long after, to justify the said Report and Order of the House; who (I hope) upon a more serious review of the whole, will see how they were deluded, and grossly abused in it.

Yet notwithstanding (I hope) through the strength of my God, I shall acquit my self as a Christian, and in despite of hells Instruments, appear and stand in the power of Christ, and uncase their malicious spirits, though cunning workmen, that can cause a true man to look like a thief; until innocency be cleared.

Therefore lest by my long or overmuch silence, I should prejudice the truth, and thereby submit to the guilt, as well as to the reproach; I do hereby make my appeal to the world (rational) and challenge all those who have any thing whereof they can justly accuse me, and make their accusation good, let them appear, and in the mean time, let them be covered with shame, and remain silent, it being no more but a Christians duty.

Suppose that these Aspersions were true, which through the craft and malice of my adversaries are now falsely thrown upon me, yet I suppose no rational man can conclude, that these persons deal honestly, either in law or justice, to conceal crimes and offences punishable by Law, within the compass of one year after their committing; but to defer and omit the execution of Justice upon those offences charged upon me the space of 15. years past, without the least mentioning of them until this time, notwithstanding my prosecution of the Jaylors (who help to drive on this designe) for their wicked practices, for 8, or 9, years past; how then is it possible for any Christian to judge the contrary, but that malice and envie are the Authors and Contrivers of those hellish lies, scandals, and reproches, which ever have been so adjudged in other cases, and yet to this day have proved nothing against me. Oh the highest of all impiety in a confederacy, for the advance of D. Cox his Designe!

It was also related by some wicked spirits to an honourable person, that there were 6 sworn against me, which the Lord knows to be most false; for there was never any person sworn against me, nor any one so much as accusing me. save only a wicked woman, living in Fleet lane, who said, that she was told so 15. years since And wanting accusers, I was examined in an illegal way, to accuse

my self ; but having formerly written against such illegal courses, in several Treatises, and suffered for the same, my answer to the Committee was, Gentlemen, I cannot but admire at such strange proceedings ; Do you expect I should accuse my self ? Which (as I hear) the Committee construed to be an acknowledgement or consent to that aspersi^on, which I then did, and still do utterly deny.

And then, there being some malignant spirited persons of Katharines (stirred up to present a Petition, which Petition, though never seen by me, nor served with any Order, to make my defence to it according to justice, yet that Petition procured this Committee,) who alledged that I had broke the Order of Octob. 1. instant ; by which Order, the exercise of the masters place was suspended on both sides, until reported back by the then Committee, to the Council, and a further Order of the Council in that behalf. Which suspension was by me accordingly performed, until Octob. 8. at which time the Committee making their report to the Council, & on that very day the Council ordered M. Strickland to report it to the Parl. which Order (as I humbly conceive) did clearly free me from the restriction of the Order dated Octob. 1. That Order of Octob. 8. expressing nothing of any suspension or restriction, although I sought it, as the honourable M. Cowney can testifie. But a Court Leer being by them called, I came and sate there to behold their Order, and no more ; having sate as Master there in Court, long before ; viz. on Septemb. 26. and then took possession. Neither did I act in any other thing there, or break that Order of Octob. 1. in the least, unless by the carrying off one chamber furniture, which I was constrained to do, for the feeding of the poor Alms-women of that place, in that time, they having none else then to take care of them. Yet notwithstanding my innocency herein, an Order was by those men of Katharines then on Octob. 21. gained of that Committee, to this purpose ;

Resolved upon the Question, That the actual Possession taken by M. James Frese of the Hospital of Katharines, and his sitting in the Masters chair, in the Court there, after Octob. 1. instant, was and is a breach of, and a contempt against the said Order ; and that immediately upon sight of this Order, he depart out of the said Hospital.

Where I beseech you note, That this my causleis trouble, was only

only between D. Cox and my self, but now transferred to the men of Katharins, & this Order gained by some malignant spirits of Katharins.

And thus having in brief stated the impious progress of D. Cox and his Adherents, their unjust and scandalous impressions (by uncessant solicitations) made on the minds and understandings of their friends and acquaintances, and many other honourable & worthy Christians, endeavouring thereby to render me unworthy and to make my reputation black, by inhumane infamy, falsely charging me with deceit and wickedness, although he, nor many more of them, never knew me, or saw my face, before Sept. 24. last past, I shall now (by the help of my God) in truth and righteousness, relate the progress of my life, with the time and manner of my losses sustained in my estate, to the undeceiving all good people, and satisfaction of all my friends in the Lord.

Being since the year 1618. a Merchant Adventurer for Russia, Holland, and other parts, and having (by the Lords blessing) a very considerable Estate, it pleased the Lord in the year 1636, and 1637. to cause me to undergo five several great losses by Sea, the loss also of a Ship, by me built at my own charge, which was cast away with all her lading of goods, beside 4600^l. lost by one man 20 years since, 1700^l. also by Sir Geo. Maliby, in Ireland 250^l. by Sir Beverly Newcombe, 300^l. by Sir Jam. Carrol, 350^l. by M. Phil. Pawlet, the L. Pawlets brother, and above 3500^l by bad debts, and suretiship in England and Ireland, and above 2000^l in Russia, besides the loss of a very considerable estate in Ireland, since these unhappy wars. I did then in Jan. 1637. call all my Creditors together, acquainted them with my losses, and then by deed tripartite did freely assigne the whole remainder of my estate in England and Russia, to my Creditors, which was above the real value of 3600^l for satisfaction of my engagements for others, which were 2780^l and of mine own proper debts, no more then 480^l. and which deed (now extant to be shewn under their hands and seals) bear date Jan. 20. 1637. and by which deed, my Creditors engaged themselves not to arrest or trouble me for one whole year after the date thereof (if the said estate in Russia should fall short) and then acknowledged that they had a sufficient estate to make them full satisfaction; for the receiving and dividing of which estate, three of the Creditors were by the rest chosen and entrusted for all the rest, which was done accordingly, and the estate by them possessed. But afterward upon some disagreement among themselves, some of them most unjustly imbezelled a great part of my estate, others of them then arrested me

Feb. 24. following, and imprisoned, me in the Compter (contrary to the said Deed of agreement) and then they went to Law one with the other about the Estate, for the space of two years; of all which Estate so assigned, I can have no account from any of them to this day, though sufficient to have given them all satisfaction, if not abused by them; and yet do I ly lyable to the lash of reproachfull men, and vild scandalous tongues, who have falsly related that I have dealt unjustly with men, and deceived my Creditors. O was there ever such a peece of Injustice and cruelty undergone by any but my self?

About March 20. 1637. I was removed to the Vpper bench, and thence on May 1 to the Fleet. Octob. 12 1639. I was unjustly turnd over to the Vpper bench, upon a Bond of 1500. l. which of right should have bin long before delivered up to me, (and is since decreed to be delivered to me) where I remained till April 12. 1640. at which time (by the consent of *Sr John Lenthall*) I agreed with his two servants (*Ioseph Landman* and *Ralph Whistler*) to put in bail to all Actions depending against me, which was by them done, as by Records appeareth, saving one Extent of 600 l. which they vallued not. April 15. I went 36 miles off into Essex, to Mr *John Frees* his house, where I remained till February following: and then went into Holland (upon a Designe) arriving there I went to Dort, and lodged my self at one Mr *Dolphins*. At my being there I discovered the Plot laid for the surprisal of Hull, and Plimouth, by the King; of which I gave intelligence to the Parliament, together with divers other Plots then against the Parliament: at last being suspected by the Papists and Malignant Gentlemen there, Holland grew too hot for me, Feb. 24. 1642. I returned into Essex, to the same place, where I remained; in which time the Royal party in heart, hearing of my being there, contrived (as I conceive) how to entrap me, thereupon, June 24. 1643. *Ralph Whistler* and *Anstow* *Sr John Lenthalls* men were sent thither, impowered by a Warrant from the then Speaker, raised the Town, and beset Mr *Frees* his House, and apprehended me there by that Warrant, as one of them Traitors that should have fired London: and thus was I taken and led by these cruel Wolves like a sheep to the slaughter, and by them brought to London, and instead of bringing me to Westminster to answer for my self, they carried me to the common Goal of Upper Bench, and charged all former actions again upon me; where I remained till Febr. 17. 1645. in which time, I discovered the first rebellion in Kent, and many of *Sir John Lenthalls* trecheries;

trecheries (& in which time my Creditors petitioned 3. several times to the Parliament for my liberty, but could not prevail for it) for which I was by the *Lenthals* used most barbarously, thrown into several Dungeons, my bed being by them taken from me, and forced to lodge upon the cold bare earth, endeavoured to be famished, Felons, and others set on to assault and destroy me; I was also once poysoned, and twice more endeavoured to be poysoned; at last (by Sir *John Lenthals* command) turned over to the Masters side of Upper Bench, and put into a chamber where not long before two men died of the Plague, and was enforced to ly in the same bed for 14 or 15. nights, Octob. 14. 1645. M. Justice *Whitaker* granted his Warrant to Sir *John Lenthals*, by whom I was robbed of all my notes and other writings: From all which several dangers (by the power of my God) I was preserved; and in all which time of my abiding there (I can truly and justly speak it) I never see the face of that creature, that could or did ever lay any evil act to my charge, as divers honest people, and godly Christians can testifie; some of these hereunder named being then prisoners with me.

Upper Bench. D. *Somerskyl*, and his wife; M. *Ed. Parker*, M^{rs} *Garroway*, M. *Geo. Clark* M. *Aldridge* & his wife, with divers others.

Feb. 1645. Sir *Joh. Lenthals* fearing to have any more of his trecherous practises discovered removed me to the Fleet, upon a judgement of one *W. Oads*, and upon an action of a 1000^l. in his own name, where for 17. days I was lodged in the common Goal, in a most filthy noysome room, where a common Jakes flooring about the room was my Nolegay, the snow sometimes my covering, and the Cavaliers (placed in the next room, my daylie Tormentors; from thence I was removed into the Tower chamber, where I was kept under locks & bolts for 5. yeers together, where I was daylie visited by very many precious godly men and women; to whole relation and testimony I refer my self, if any please to enquire of them, what they know of and concerning my life and daylie conversation; a few of whole names are also set down; beside sundry honourable persons of the Army) who in the time of my greatest necessity, became my supporters.

Fleet, M. *John Jackson*, M. *Bolton*, M. *Wright*, M. *H. Jesse*, M. *Kiffin*, M. *Patience*, M. *Barber*, M. *Lamb*, M. *Oads*, and divers others. Maj. Gen. *Harrison*, Col. *Venable*, Col. *Cock*, Col. *Wolf*, Col. *Stabbers*, and many others.

It is in vain to nominate some forraign Princes, or domestick Peers, whole tell
money I doubt not to gain, if time would permit, and shall therefore only nominate
some few persons of worth and quality in this Land, who have known my conver-
sation for many yeers, spent in the quality of a Merchant; besides many Merchants
and Citizens of good repute, to whom I have been well known for many yeers.

S. Will. Russel Knight, 40 yeers. Col. Fran. Russel, 30. Col. Will. Russel
S. John Jacobs 25. S. Job Harby 20. S. J. Wolstenholm 20. M. Kill. Russel, 40.
John Beadle, 30. M. Pet. Jones 25. M. Nat. Wright, 20. M. Sam. Michol
M. Sam. Vassel 25. and very many others.

The prophet saith, a man in affliction ought to be pittied of his neighbours
therefore not oppressed by him. The Lord plead my cause against them, and
them not rejoyce over me, who hate me without a cause; having forged lyes against
me and are Physicians of no value. They have ten times reproched me, yet are they
not ashamed; yea they are impudent towards me, without a cause. I therefore my dear
friends in the Lord, if at any time you shall hear any of these backbiters traduce me,
I humbly beseech you, bid them first prove it, and then reprove me for it. Teach
them a godly rule, even to cease from wrath, and not employ themselves to do evil.
To learn to do, as they would be done unto.

And thus having dealt (as in the presence of God) plainly and sincerely with
his people, and mine own soul, I hope all rational men cannot but clearly discern
Cox his ungodly dealing toward me, like Zibas dealing with Mephibosheth (who
by slander endeavoured to gain Mephibosheths right, or like Ahab, thirsting after
Naboths vinyard; yet seeks to hide his covetous thirsting after another mans right
by saying [Providence hath cast Katharins upon him] and with the assistance of
some malignant spirits, oppressors of the poor, incrochers upon their rights, and
servers, whom in modesty I will not name, but am ready to prove these practices
of theirs, which persons (though not knowing me) go up & down daylie detest
me like rayling Rabshekah. The description of my adversaries, viz.

Some of them wishing the Parl. confounded, terming them Rogues. Others
them since Worcester fight, giving the Scots money, and bidding them be valiant
for their King, and causlessly imprisoning the poor in iron fetters for a long time
meer malice. Others of them compelling from the poor that for 5. d. which
sell to the State for 12. d. Others animating the Seamen against the State. Others
of them in times of tryal, wishing on one first day, in the Pulpit, that his
might fall out of his mouth, and his hands from his arms, if ever he should put
the Surplice, that whore of Romes garment, or ever read the Common Prayer.
On the next first day did both; to the great astonishment and distraction of
christian men and women, some miscarrying upon it, others burning their
and many to this day unsettled in their judgements by reason thereof.

Now whether D. Cox, who is (as I hear) a man of great estate, and hath no
claim to Katharins Hospital, which was by Deed under Hand and Seal, conferred
me for life (without originally my seeking for it) be more truly deserving it
my self, that have so deeply undergone many yeers afflictions, the loss of a
estate in Ireland since these unhappy differences, the several services by me
performed for this Commonwealth, to the hazard of life (for which (as yet) I
had one peny recompense, as others have had.

These Particulars I do in all humility refer to the Christian consideration of
Honourable Assembly, his Excellency, and the Honourable Councel of State;

Your Honour humble Servant,
James Frese.